



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

19 AUGUST 2016

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Fire That Destroyed Dozens of Homes Caused By an Illegal Marijuana Operation

(U) Clear Lake – A fire that destroyed 43 homes last year in a largely rural area north of San Francisco was sparked by an illegal marijuana-growing operation, officials said on 17 August, but the two suspects fled the country before they could be questioned. The Rocky fire burned about 108 square miles in Lake, Yolo and Colusa counties before it was contained.

SOURCE: 17 August 2016, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) Twitter^{USPER} Suspends 360,000 Accounts for Terrorist Ties

(U) San Francisco – On 18 August, Twitter announced it had suspended an additional 235,000 terrorist-related accounts in its ongoing efforts to combat violent extremism online. The move comes more than six months after Twitter said it had suspended more than 125,000 accounts linked to terrorism since mid-2015, bringing the overall total of deactivated accounts to about 360,000. Twitter also reported that daily suspensions are up more than 80 percent since last year, with spikes in suspensions immediately following terrorist attacks. There has been increasing focus on trying to keep terrorist groups from using social networks like Twitter and Facebook^{USPER} to communicate, call for attacks, and recruit.

SOURCE: 18 August 2016, [CIO](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Maryland – DEA: Many More Drugs Looted in Riots than Reported

(U) Baltimore– Officials say the amount of drugs looted from Baltimore pharmacies during riots last year was substantially higher than initially reported. A US Drug Enforcement Administration official reported 80 percent more doses of drugs were taken than previously thought during the riots following the death of Freddie Gray, a black man who was critically injured while in police custody. Authorities initially said 175,000 doses of drugs were looted, but have since revised that total to nearly 315,000. More than 40 percent were Schedule II opioids such as methadone, oxycodone, and fentanyl.

SOURCE: 19 August 2016, [Associated Press](#)

(U) North Carolina – Documents Link US Suspect to Top ISIL Leader

(U) Charlotte – A new indictment alleges that a Charlotte-area teenager communicated directly with a notorious Syria-based terrorist while planning his first act of violence on behalf of the “Islamic State of North America.” According to the court document, the US Attorney’s Office says that Justin Sullivan^{USPER} of Morganton promised ISIL member Junaid Hussain that he would make a video of his terrorist attacks that ISIL could use as propaganda. On 19 June, Sullivan obtained the money he needed to buy an AR-15 assault rifle, the new indictment says. That same day, he and Hussain discussed the making of a video to go with Sullivan’s upcoming terrorist attack; two days later, the FBI arrested Sullivan at his parents’ home.

SOURCE: 18 August 2016, [The Charlotte Observer](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Russia – ISIL Claims Responsibility for Attack on Traffic Police

(U) Moscow – ISIL claimed responsibility for an attack on a traffic police post outside Moscow on 17 August in which both attackers were killed, calling it revenge for Russia's aerial bombing campaign in Syria. The militant group made the claim via the Amaq news agency, which it regularly uses to issue statements, and released a video in which the purported attackers said they wanted to take revenge for Russia killing Muslims in the Middle East.

SOURCE: 19 August 2016, [Reuters](#)

(U) Thailand – Police Name Suspect in Deadly Bombings

(U) Phuket – Police identified a Thai man yesterday as a suspect in their investigation into attacks that killed four people and wounded dozens in a wave of bombings a week ago. National police identified the suspect as Ahama Lengha from Narathiwat province near Thailand's border with Malaysia. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the bombings, which came days after Thais voted to accept a military-backed constitution. Police and the government ruled out any link to foreign militants within hours of the attacks and insisted the perpetrators were homegrown.

SOURCE: 19 August 2016, [Reuters](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Mexico – Commission Reports Police Executed 22 Suspected Gang Members at Ranch

(U) Tanhuato – Mexican police arbitrarily executed nearly two dozen suspected gang members on a ranch in 2015, the government's National Human Rights Commission said yesterday. In May last year, federal police ambushed suspected members of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel holed up at Rancho El Sol near the small town of Tanhuato in the violent western state of Michoacan and killed 42 men.

SOURCE: 18 August 2016, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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